**Differentiating Curriculum for Gifted Learners in Texas**

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To set the stage for how we can differentiate curriculum for gifted learners, we must first recognize that in today’s rapidly changing world, students need more than just content knowledge to be successful. Educators need to focus on developing 7 Cs crucial to success in every domain: Critical and Creative thinking, Communication and Collaboration skills, Confidence, and Commitment, in addition to Content knowledge. Through the use of statistics, video clips, and contemporary resources, teachers will gain an understanding of the importance of embedding each of these 7 Cs into curriculum.

From that curriculum base, the presenters move to how to differentiate in the classroom. Student engagement and on-task behavior are heightened when curriculum is differentiated appropriately to meet the learning needs of gifted students. For this workshop teachers should have in mind a unit they teach and bring a lesson or set of lessons from that unit for their own classroom that they would like to differentiate as we go through the activities of the day. Opportunities to learn very specific strategies for asking higher level questions, designing problem-based learning scenarios, accelerating and enriching content, and designing student explorations of areas of choice will be provided. Teachers will learn about assessment techniques that allow for maximum coverage of academic standards with optimal demonstrate of content acquisition and skill development. Teachers will learn how to design authentic assessments that require students to use both critical and creative thinking not only to demonstrate understanding but also to demonstrate the ability to collaborate and communicate effectively in a variety of formats. Teachers will also learn how to create rubrics for evaluating student products. The session will include content, sharing, hands-on activities, working in small groups, and working individually.